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## Dual Enrollment – Dual Opportunity

**By Matthew Hughes, Director  
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High school students have more education options than ever, and one of the best options is the dual enrollment program. Simply put, dual enrollment allows a student to earn a high school diploma while simultaneously earning college credits for a certificate or, in some cases, an associate's degree.

From an employer's point of view, what makes the dual enrollment program so appealing is the potential pool of skilled workers. Alabama employers are looking for workers with skills and dual enrollment is one way our education and workforce systems can respond to their needs.

The dual enrollment program begins at the local level as a partnership between high schools and two-year colleges. Students who meet certain eligibility criteria are allowed to participate. The dual enrollment program offers young people a path to self-sufficiency and independence by equipping them with job-ready skills and a jump-start on postsecondary education.

Not every student can afford to or has the desire to go to college, but I think it's safe to say every student wants to be a success in life and learning a skill provides the foundation for that success.

### Important Dates:

- Chat with the Chancellor Region 8, March 23, 2011.
- SWPC Meeting May 3, 2011



## Dual Enrollment as a Tool for Economic Development

As Canadian-based Lakeside Steel, LLC, searched for a stateside location, worker supply was going to be a major factor.

Thomasville in rural Clarke County was a strong contender for this industry, but so were several other communities in neighboring states. Thomasville, however, had what Lakeside ultimately needed – a ready workforce and the capability to train more employees for its new steel pipe mill.

Thomasville Mayor Sheldon Day credits the dual enrollment program offered through Alabama Southern Community College for providing the competitive edge. "I have seen firsthand the positive results the program has brought to our school system and our community. Without a doubt, the program has been instrumental in assisting Thomasville in successfully competing with other cities all over the southeastern United States in attracting new good-paying steel manufacturing jobs."

According to Day, landing an industry of this caliber will open the door to more economic opportunities for the area, and a better quality of life for its citizens.

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## US Labor Department Announces Grant Applications to Assist with Implementing Career Pathways Programs

A solicitation for grant applications for the national Career Pathways Innovation Fund Grant Program. Over the next year, the department will award approximately \$122 million through this program.

These grants – which are replacing the former Community-Based Job Training grants – will focus on career pathway programs that help individuals of varying skill levels enter and pursue rewarding careers in emerging industries and in-demand occupations.

The grants, which will be made to community colleges and other organizations, sup-

port President Obama's broader agenda of helping every American gain at least one year of postsecondary education, and will help reach his goal of America having the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020.

The CPIF grants will emphasize career pathway programs implemented by community colleges in partnership with employers, local workforce investment boards, and community and faith-based organizations.

In order to further the goals of career training and education, and encourage innovation in the development of new learning materials leading to industry-recognized credentials,

grantees will be required to license to the public (not including the federal government) all work created with the support of their grants.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to view the online tutorial "Grant Applications 101: A Plain English Guide to ETA Competitive Grants" available at [http://www.workforce3one.org/page/grants\\_toolkit](http://www.workforce3one.org/page/grants_toolkit). Applicants can register at <http://www.Grants.gov> to access the solicitation when it is available. In addition, the Labor Department posts grant information at <http://www.doleta.gov/grants>.

## Chat with the Chancellor Hosted by Region 10 in Dothan

More than 50 representatives of business and industry, elected officials, chambers of commerce, economic developers, career centers, and community college personnel were present for the Chat with the Chancellor visit to WDCA Region 10 on February 22nd.

The Chat was held at Wallace Community College in Dothan. Discussion centered on many topics such as dual enrollment, tech-

nology training, and adult education.

The next Chat with the Chancellor will be hosted by WDCA Region 8 on March 23, 2011. The meeting will be held at the East Alabama Medical Center Health Resource Center - The Azalea Room, in Opelika. The council meeting will begin at 1:00 PM with the chat following at 2:00 PM.



## WDCA Region 10 Officers

**Steve Turkoski** is the chair for Region 10.

He is a project manager for the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and has been the chamber contact for workforce development issues since 2000.

He is a retired Army aviator, having served 27 years in the service. Subsequent to the culmination of his military career he served as the city manager of Slocumb, followed by work with a civil engineering firm.

He is married and has three children and four grandchildren.

**Frank Thompson** is vice chair for Region 10. He serves as the Executive Director of the Enterprise Coffee Geneva Economic Development Corporation.

Frank is a Certified Economic Developer and has worked in the economic development field for approximately 25 years.

Frank holds two college degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi. He is working on a Doctorate of Business Administration at Kennesaw State University. Frank is also a professional artist.

Frank and Trina live in Enterprise, Alabama. Their two children Matt and Sarah are students at Troy University.

**Les Moreland** is the secretary for Region 10. He is the CFO at Wiregrass Electric Cooperative. He manages the Finance, Accounting and Information Technology areas of the Co-op.

Prior to his current job, Mr. Moreland worked as a Systems Analyst for Southern Business Systems, Inc. in Dothan, AL, and as CFO at both Summerford Truck Line in Ashford, AL, and Jeffers Inc. in Dothan.

Mr. Moreland received his bachelor's degree in Business with emphasis in Computer Science and also earned a Masters in Business Administration from the Troy University System.

## WDCA Region 9 (SAWDC) Awarded a NWFS Grant

The National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NWFS) announced that SAWDC has been selected to receive \$300,000 over a two year period!

NWFS announced grants to cities in the south and southwest to support innovative approaches to job training and career support. Each of

the new sites, selected through a competitive process, has a local funding collaborative in place, comprised of an array of private and public funders, investing in sector-based, workforce partnerships.

This investment will allow SAWDC to establish and support four fully functioning

workforce partnerships supporting the following industries: maritime, aerospace, healthcare, and process manufacturing. Proposed services will include skills training and any other necessary services to support the advancement of lower skilled adults.

## The ABC's of GOWD, or What in the World Does THAT Mean?

Have you ever been in a meeting and not understood all the acronyms and abbreviations used? You are not alone!

The November spotlight in the 2011 Workforce Development Calendar are the ABC's of GOWD!

Here are a few for you to review and learn.

CPIF—Career Pathways Innovation Fund

DE—Dual Enrollment

NWFS—National Fund for Workforce Solutions

SAWDC—Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council

SWPC—State Workforce Planning Council

WDCA—Workforce Development Councils of Alabama

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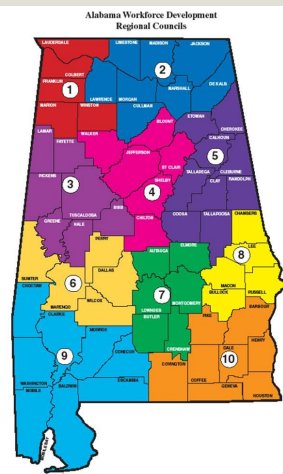
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### Upcoming WDCA Meetings

- Region 1— June 14, TBA
- Region 2— May 18, Boaz
- Region 3— April 14, Tuscaloosa
- Region 4— April 22, TBA
- Region 5— April 12, TBA
- Region 6— March 25, Selma
- Region 7— March 31, Montgomery
- Region 8— March 23, Opelika
- Region 9— March 16, Mobile
- Region 10— March 22, Dothan



### Program created to prevent home foreclosures in Alabama

Governor Robert Bentley announced the creation of Hardest Hit Alabama (HHA), a new program providing \$162 million for the prevention of foreclosure in Alabama.

**Eligible homeowners will receive assistance to pay their current mortgage payment and all other mortgage-related expenses, including payments on any subordinate liens, while unemployed.**

HHA will provide up to 12 monthly mortgage payments, or \$15,000, per household.

Alabama homeowners who have been declared eligible by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations to receive state unemployment compensation benefits may apply.

**To qualify, applicants must have a total annual household income of less than \$75,740, and the unpaid principal balance on their home's mortgages must be less than \$258,690.**

The homeowner must currently occupy the property as their primary residence, and the home

must be located in Alabama. Assistance will be available for single-family homes, attached or detached, and manufactured housing attached to real property.

HHA will be available statewide to qualified homeowners on a first-come, first-served basis.

Visit [www.hardesthitlabama.com](http://www.hardesthitlabama.com) to learn more about the Hardest Hit Funds.